

Advisory Council to the Division of Autism Services
Minutes
December 19, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Bagatell, Carol Barans, Tom Boudreau, Ruth Eren, Alison Fisher, Chera Gerstein, Ann Gionet, David Daniel Klipper, James Loomis, Sara Lourie, Kathy Marchione, Yana Razumnaya, Sara Reed, Nikki Richer, Lois Rosenwald, Jonathan Ross, Barbara Salop, Stan Soby, Larry Wood

MEMBERS ABSENT: Catherine Abercrombie, Judy Dowd, Tesha Imperati, Jacqueline Kelleher, Joel Rudikoff, Tricia Winter

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: Commissioner Terrence Macy, Jennifer Bogin

GUESTS: Sarah Abelli, DDS Staff

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 A.M.

Public Comment

Tragedy in Newtown. Commissioner Macy and Jennifer Bogin are drafting a public statement and it will be addressed after the holidays and once all the funerals have been held. The statement will need to be reviewed by the Governor's office first.

Lois believes that the adults with autism who are very open about their diagnosis are very concerned about how they are going to be perceived by the public. Older teens and adults are very concerned and would like to see some group sessions offered for help and to talk. ASRC has offered a space that is safe and comfortable to hold these sessions.

There is a need to reach out to the public and get the message out about the ASD population. A representative from DDS should reach out to families to let them know that there is help available for them.

Barbara and David Daniel will be working on writing a letter to the editor.

Additions to Agenda

Update on Focus Groups for participants on their experience with the program.

In mid to late January session will be held at St. Joseph's Tuesday or Thursday night. Chapel Haven will be held Saturday afternoon. _____ offered to facilitate. Need to get the word out through social media, Facebook and the DDS autism case managers. Barbara will keep everyone informed.

Approval of October 17, 2012 Minutes

Motion was made by Barbara Salop and second by _____ to accept the minutes. Motion was passed unanimously.

Feasibility Study Update

Legislative issues regarding the council were brought up to Commissioner Macy. There is some need for redesign. Legislature wanted to reduce the number of councils, believing there were too many. The Advisory Council was one of the councils eliminated. Legislation will be proposed in the coming session to form a new, statutorily-based Autism Council. In the new design, there will be a total of 23 council members, including Commissioner Macy, state agency representatives, family, self-advocates, providers and OPA. Commissioner Macy will not have final control over the membership. Eight of the new members of the new council will be appointed by the Governor. Others will be likely be appointed by Legislative leaders, based on how the legislation is written. It is recommended that people approach the Governor and/or Legislative Leaders and ask to be on the new council if they are interested in one of eleven other slots.

The first year or two is building a structure of making for a service delivery system as outlined in the Executive Summary. We are finally closer to the waiver being approved. We will know by next week or so whether it has been approved. Five subgroups of the new Council are going to be formed, based on the Study: ASD Credentialing Committee, ASD Training Committee, ASD Resource Committee, ASD Service Delivery Implementation Committee and State Agency Reimbursement Committee. Members of the current Council have considerable expertise and represent many stakeholders, and are encouraged to join one of the workgroups.

This council will end but is unknown when. Existing council should make a summary document for the new group that links to the Executive summary and provides some closure. This group will continue informally until the new group starts in July or August 2013.

Need to prepare a document for the new committee focusing on the historical piece, Lois, Larry and Jim to work together on this document.

Then, once the historical piece is complete, another group will work together on the priorities piece.

Everyone is in agreement to come back edit the comments and discuss again as a group. This council will disband once the document is complete.

Update on Autism Program Matters

To date, we have 108 individuals on the waitlist. 6 DCF children have fully transferred to DDS. Autism has posted an internal posting for 2 BCBA's to come and provide supports to families on the waiting list. They will provide about 3 or 4 in-home visits per family, connecting them to resources and provide family training.

The waiver has been resubmitted for the 3rd time to CMS for final review and approval. When it does get the final approval it will be retroactive to November 1, 2012.

A concern was brought up that families should receive a letter as well as the agency and the self hire as to when there is a change in the rate.

The Provider Forum was held on December 11th and the department has received positive feedback. This is something that will probably become an annual event.

Provider Assessment/Qualifications/Orientation

Group met in the beginning of the month. Five entry points were noted: in-service and retraining, connecting with managers throughout state, oversight of qualified provider selection, how far the department can go looking at the oversight and accountability, and data collection. Division will be looking into redesigning some of the documents. The work of this group dovetails with a number of the areas identified in the Study.

New Business

ASRC and Southern Center of Excellence are hosting a 2 day Regional Conference March 15 & 16 at SCSU Lyman Auditorium. Keynote speaker is Brenda Smith Myles and a "Speaker from the Spectrum", Jesse Saperstein.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:56 am

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 20th at 9:00 am at 370 James Street, 3rd Floor, New Haven.